AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for processing data events captured in a multi-protocol communications system, the method comprising:

capturing first data events at a first link analyzer, the first link analyzer being disposed in an in-line arrangement with respect to a first data stream corresponding to a first communication protocol;

capturing second data events at a second link analyzer, the second link analyzer being disposed in an in-line arrangement with respect to a second data stream corresponding to a second communication protocol that is different from the first communication protocol;

accessing the captured first and second data events, each of the captured first and second data events having an associated clock timestamp;

sorting at least some of the first and second captured data events according to the respective clock timestamps associated with each of the first and second captured data events; and

displaying at least some of the sorted data events by way of a graphical user interface.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the displayed data events represent at least the first and second communication protocols.

3. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the displayed data events represent at least two different communication protocols selected from the group consisting of: Infiniband; Gigabit Ethernet; SONET; Fibre Channel; and, PCI Express.

4. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the clock timestamp is based upon one of: a reference clock; and, a protocol clock.

5. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the displayed data events are presented on the graphical user interface such that a temporal relationship between at least two of the displayed data events is apparent from the display.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the temporal relationship comprises one of the following: a first data event preceded a second data event; a first data event followed a second data event; a first data event overlapped a second data event; and, a first data event and second data event commenced ~~substantially~~ simultaneously and also concluded ~~substantially~~ simultaneously.

7. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising using information concerning the temporal relationship to facilitate determination of whether or not a causal relationship exists between the at least two sorted data events.

8. **(Original)** The method as recited m claim 1, further comprising displaying information concerning at least some of the displayed data events, wherein the displayed information includes at least one of: a data event start time; a data event stop time; a data event delta time; a data event type; an analyzer port in connection with which a data event was captured; a timestamp value; and, a protocol type.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A method for processing data events associated with a multi-protocol communications system, the method being suitable for use in connection with a multi-link protocol analyzer and comprising:

capturing first data events at a first link analyzer, the first link analyzer being disposed in an in-line arrangement with respect to a first data stream corresponding to a first communication protocol;

capturing second data events at a second link analyzer, the second link analyzer being disposed in an in-line arrangement with respect to a second data stream corresponding to a second communication protocol that is different from the first communication protocol;

~~capturing data events, the captured data events collectively representing a plurality of communication protocols;~~

timestamping each of the captured first and second data events in association with a clock;

sorting at least some of the captured first and second data events according to the respective clock timestamps associated with each of the first and second captured data events; and

displaying at least some of the sorted data events by way of a graphical user interface such that a temporal relationship between at least two of the displayed data events is apparent from the display.

10. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the displayed data events represent at least two different communication protocols selected from the group consisting of: Infiniband; Gigabit Ethernet; SONET; Fibre Channel; and, PCI Express.

[[12]] 11. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the clock timestamp is based upon one of: a reference clock; and, a protocol clock.

[[13]] 12. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the temporal relationship comprise at least one of the following: a first data event preceded a second data event; a first data event followed a second data event; a first data event overlapped a second data event; and, a first data event and second data event commenced ~~substantially~~ simultaneously and also concluded ~~substantially~~ simultaneously.

[[14]] 13. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 9, further comprising determining whether a causal relationship exists between at least two displayed data events based upon the temporal relation between the at least two displayed data events.

[[15]] 14. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited In claim 9, further comprising displaying information concerning at least some of the displayed data events, wherein the displayed information includes at least one of: a data event start time; a data event stop time; a data event delta time; a data event type; an analyzer port in connection with which a data event was captured; a timestamp value; and, a protocol type.

[[16]] 15. **(Currently Amended)** A method for processing data events associated with a multi-protocol communications system, the method being suitable for use in connection with a multi- link protocol analyzer and comprising:

capturing first data events at a first link analyzer, the first link analyzer being disposed in an in-line arrangement with respect to a first data stream corresponding to a first communication protocol;

capturing second data events at a second link analyzer, the second link analyzer being disposed in an in-line arrangement with respect to a second data stream corresponding to a second communication protocol that is different from the first communication protocol;

~~capturing data events, the captured data events collectively representing a plurality of communication protocols;~~

timestamping each of the captured first and second data events in association with a clock;

sorting at least some of the captured first and second data events according to the respective clock timestamps associated with each of the first and second captured data events;

filling a display with at least some of the sorted data events; and

displaying the sorted data events in the display by way of a graphical user interface such that a temporal relationship between at least two of the displayed data events is apparent from the display.

[[17]] 16. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim [[16]] 15, wherein the displayed data events represent at least two different communication protocols selected from the group consisting of: Infiniband; Gigabit Ethernet; SONET; Fibre Channel; and, PCI Express.

[[18]] 17. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim [[16]] 15, wherein the clock timestamp is based upon one of: a reference clock; and, a protocol clock.

[[19]] 18. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim [[16]] 15, wherein the temporal relationship comprise at least one of the following: a first data event preceded a second data event; a first data event followed a second data event; a first data event overlapped a second data event; and, a first data event and second data event commenced ~~substantially~~ simultaneously and also concluded ~~substantially~~ simultaneously.

[[20]] 19. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim [[16]] 15, further comprising determining whether a causal relationship exists between at least two displayed data events based upon the temporal relation between the at least two displayed data events.

[[21]] 20. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim [[16]] 15, further comprising displaying information concerning at least some of the displayed data events, wherein the displayed information includes at least one of: a data event start time; a data event stop time; a data event delta time; a data event type; an analyzer port in connection with which a data event was captured; a timestamp value; and, a protocol type.

[[22]] 21. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product for implementing a method for processing data events captured in a multi-protocol communications system, the computer program product comprising:

[[a]] physical storage computer readable medium carrying computer executable instructions for performing the method, wherein the method comprises:

accessing first data events captured from a first link analyzer at a first communication protocol;

accessing second data events captured from a second link analyzer at a second communication protocol that is different from the first communication protocol;

~~capturing data events, the captured data events collectively representing a plurality of communication protocols;~~

timestamping each of the captured first and second data events in association with a clock;

sorting at least some of the captured first and second data events according to the respective clock timestamps associated with each of the captured first and second data events; and

displaying at least some of the sorted data events by way of a graphical user interface such that a temporal relationship between at least two of the displayed data events is apparent from the display.

[[23]] 22. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product as recited in claim [[22]] 21, wherein the displayed data events represent at least two different communication protocols selected from the group consisting of: Infiniband; Gigabit Ethernet; SONET; Fibre Channel; and, PCI Express.

[[24]] 23. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product as recited in claim [[22]] 21, wherein the clock timestamp is based upon one of: a reference clock; and, a protocol clock.

[[25]] 24. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product as recited in claim [[22]] 21, wherein the temporal relationship comprise at least one of the following: a first data event preceded a second data event; a first data event followed a second data event; a first data event overlapped a second data event; and, a first data event and second data event commenced ~~substantially~~ simultaneously and also concluded ~~substantially~~ simultaneously.

[[26]] 25. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product as recited in claim [[22]] 21, wherein the method further comprises determining whether a causal relationship exists between at least two displayed data events based upon the temporal relation between the at least two displayed data events.

[[27]] 26. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product as recited in claim [[22]] 21, wherein the method further comprises displaying information concerning at least some of the displayed data events, wherein the displayed information includes at least one of: a data event start time; a data event stop time; a data event delta time; a data event type; an analyzer port in connection with which a data event was captured; a timestamp value; and, a protocol type.